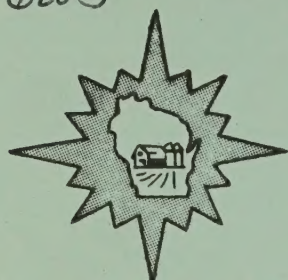


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

a HD 1775
W6W5

IND/CH



U.S.D.A.
NAT'L AGRIC LIBRARY
RECEIVED

WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. XII, NO. 5

SERIALS CONTROL AND
EXCHANGE SECT
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

March 1980

Cream of the News

Milk production during February continued higher than a year earlier, with Wisconsin's output gaining 1 percent on a daily average basis and the Nation's production increasing 3 percent.

Wholesale prices of dairy products for February were higher than the previous month and well above a year ago.

Cheese and butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation during January was higher than a year earlier, and weekly estimates for February indicated a continuation of that trend.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in February were expected to average \$12.30 a hundredweight, 2 cents under January but 77 cents above last year.

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of February were up 13 percent from a year earlier and a record high for that date.

A strong market for cattle and calves in February helped the index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers to increase 2 points from a month earlier.

With spring field work approaching, a custom rates guide for land tillage, planting, and fertilizing operations is included in this issue.

The March 1 inventory in the 14 major hog states was up 7 percent from a year ago, while Wisconsin showed an increase of 11 percent.

Prices of barrows and gilts at Wisconsin packing plants and country buying stations increased slightly from January to February but were well below a year earlier.

Except for the National hog kill, the number of livestock slaughtered in Wisconsin and the Nation during 1979 was below 1978.

Beef cattle prices at Wisconsin auction markets in February were up from the previous month.

Stocks of poultry and pork in cold storage at the end of February were well above the previous year.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during February totaled 1,731 million pounds, an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier. On a daily average basis, the State's milk production was up only 1 percent from a year ago as February 1980 had an extra day's production. Output per cow for February averaged 955 pounds, a gain of 45 pounds from February last year. The 1,813,000 milk cows on Wisconsin farms in February were 2,000 head more than a year ago.

The Nation's milk production totaled 9.9 billion pounds in February, up 6 percent from last year. On a daily average basis, the February milk production was 3 percent more than in February 1979. Production per cow for February averaged 920 pounds compared with 862 pounds a year earlier. The number of milk cows on the Nation's farms during February was just slightly less than the previous year.

Milk Production

Selected States	February 1979	February 1980	Jan.-Feb. 1980	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . .	1,648	1,731	3,517	+ 5	+ 3
Minnesota . . .	761	782	1,564	+ 3	+ 1
New York . . .	804	846	1,751	+ 5	+ 3
Pennsylvania . .	604	684	1,371	+ 13	+ 10
California . . .	877	979	2,026	+ 12	+ 11
Other states . .	4,623	4,895	9,948	+ 6	+ 4
United States . .	9,317	9,917	20,177	+ 6	+ 4

FEBRUARY MILK PRICE DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM JANUARY

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers during February were expected to average \$12.30 a hundredweight, 2 cents below the previous month but 77 cents higher than a year ago.

January milk prices were down 4 cents from a month earlier but 71 cents above January 1979. Milkfat content for January averaged 3.82 percent compared with 3.87 percent for that month last year.

222-3-80

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE REPORTING SERVICE
A Cooperative Function of

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Administration

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Economics, Statistics,
& Cooperatives Service

Grade A milk prices averaged \$12.50 a hundredweight in January, a decline of 2 cents from December but 70 cents more than a year earlier. Manufacturing grade milk, at an average of \$11.95 a hundredweight in January, was down 4 cents from the previous month but 75 cents higher than last year. The 3.5 percent base price for manufacturing grade milk in January was \$11.47 a hundredweight, 25 cents above the 3.5 percent government support price.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	December 1979		January price per cwt.			Feb. 1980 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1979	1980	80/79 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.86	12.36	11.61	12.32	+ 6	12.30
Minnesota	3.72	11.97	11.06	11.98	+ 8	11.90
New York	3.67	12.50	11.80	12.50	+ 6	12.50
California	3.73	12.50	11.00	12.60	+ 15	12.50
United States . .	3.79	12.80	11.90	12.80	+ 8	12.80
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk . . .	3.84	12.52	11.80	12.50	+ 6	XXX
Manufacturing milk	3.89	11.99	11.20	11.95	+ 7	XXX
Creameries . . .	3.87	11.86	11.11	11.83	+ 6	XXX
Cheese factories	3.89	12.01	11.22	11.96	+ 7	XXX
Varied prod. plants	3.88	11.90	11.10	11.90	+ 7	XXX

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	January 1979	December 1979	January 1980 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Market milk	11.33	12.01	12.05	+ 6
Manufacturing milk	10.75	11.47	11.47	+ 7
Creameries	10.64	11.36	11.35	+ 7
American cheese plants	10.76	11.50	11.48	+ 7
Varied products plants	10.62	11.39	11.42	+ 8
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . .	11.10	11.86	11.88	+ 7

1/Computed using milkfat differential. 2/Preliminary.

CHEESE AND BUTTER PRODUCTION HIGHER

Production of cheese and butter in Wisconsin and the Nation during January was above a year earlier. The State's butter output of 25.5 million pounds in January was 5 per-

cent more than in that month last year. Nationally, the January butter production was up 7 percent from a year ago. Although Minnesota manufactured 16 percent less butter than in January 1979, production in California increased 35 percent and other states gained 7 percent.

Cheese production in the Nation during January was also up 7 percent from January last year. All varieties had an increase in production except Swiss which declined 3 percent. Output of American cheese in the Nation for January was 5 percent more than a year ago. Italian cheese production increased 12 percent, Brick and Muenster was up 17 percent, and all other cheese had a gain of 24 percent.

Wisconsin dairy plants produced 75.2 million pounds of American cheese in January, 6 percent more than a year earlier. Output of American cheese in Minnesota for January was down 2 percent from last year. Iowa's production of American cheese was 9 percent below January 1979, but other states had an increase of 9 percent.

Production of cottage cheese in the Nation during January was down from the previous year except for lowfat cottage cheese. The Nation's ice cream production for January was 3 percent less than in January 1979.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	January 1979	January 1980	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds		Percent
BUTTER			
Wisconsin	24,400	25,500	+ 5
Minnesota	14,870	12,530	- 16
California	13,000	17,500	+ 35
Other states	45,129	48,241	+ 7
United States	97,399	103,771	+ 7
CHEESE, AMERICAN			
Wisconsin	70,800	75,200	+ 6
Minnesota	38,900	38,290	- 2
Iowa	8,255	7,546	- 9
Other states	55,864	60,973	+ 9
United States	173,819	182,009	+ 5
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS			
United States			
Swiss	18,155	17,695	- 3
Brick and Muenster	6,351	7,430	+ 17
Italian	72,816	81,335	+ 12
All other	17,725	22,017	+ 24
Total	115,047	128,477	+ 12
ALL CHEESE			
United States	288,866	310,486	+ 7
OTHER PRODUCTS			
Cottage Cheese			
United States			
Curd 1/	55,410	54,162	- 2
Creamed 2/	69,040	67,063	- 3
Lowfat 3/	11,830	13,174	+ 11
ICE CREAM			
	1,000 gallons		Percent
Wisconsin	1,250	1,250	n. c.
Illinois	2,850	2,470	- 13
Iowa	1,015	632	- 38
Michigan	2,500	2,550	+ 2
Minnesota	2,575	1,985	- 23
Other states	47,234	46,790	- 1
United States	57,424	55,677	- 3

1/Mostly used for processing into creamed or lowfat cottage cheese. 2/Fat content 4 percent or more. 3/Fat content less than 4 percent.

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES HIGHER

Wholesale prices of dairy products increased from January to February. The 92-score butter price at New York averaged 135.71 cents a pound in February, up 1 cent from the previous month and nearly 21 cents higher than last year.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged \$1.26 a pound

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

Statisticians

Carrol D. Spencer, *In Charge*

Jim Davies, *Assistant in Charge*

Ed Lippert

Laverne E. Krahn

John S. Rowe

Ronald F. Kriesel

Editor

Marvin Heiser

This publication is free upon request to the Wisconsin Agriculture Reporting Service, Box 9160, Madison, Wisconsin 53715.

at Wisconsin assembly points during February. This was an increase of one-third cent from January and more than 7 cents above a year earlier.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged \$1.63 a pound for February, nearly 2 cents higher than the previous month and 12 cents greater than February 1979.

The National evaporated milk price increased slightly from January to February and was almost 2 cents above a year ago. Nonfat dry milk prices also were up a little in February and 8 cents higher than last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	February 1979	January 1980	February 1980
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	114.96¢	134.67¢	135.71¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40-lb. block, pound 1/ . .	118.64¢	125.64¢	126.00¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block, pound 1/	151.00¢	161.27¢	163.00¢
National evaporated milk, case, 48 13-fluid-oz. cans	\$17.36	\$19.05	\$19.17
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	75.79¢	83.70¢	83.78¢

1/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

BUTTER AND AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION ABOVE YEAR AGO

Weekly estimates for February indicated that production of American cheese and butter in Wisconsin and the Nation was higher than a year ago. The Nation's butter output in February was about 7 percent higher than a year earlier, the same increase as shown in January. Wisconsin's production of butter during February will likely exceed January's 5 percent gain as churnings were up considerably for the weeks ending February 14 and 21.

American cheese production in the Nation for February was up about 3 percent from that month in 1979, a little less than the January increase. Wisconsin's output of American cheese during February was just slightly higher than a year ago after having increased 6 percent in January.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1980	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1980	Change from last year	Change from last year
January . .	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
January . .	103,771	+ 7	+ 5	182,009	+ 5	+ 6
Weeks ending						
Feb. 7 . .	22,900	+ 4	+ 2	42,800	+ 4	+ 1
14 . .	23,650	+ 9	+ 18	42,500	+ 2	n. c.
21 . .	23,400	+ 11	+ 19	43,000	+ 3	+ 2
28 . .	22,800	+ 5	- 3	42,100	+ 1	n. c.
Total . . .	92,750	+ 7	XXX	170,400	+ 3	XXX

CHEESE STOCKS ABOVE YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of February totaled nearly 511 million pounds, up 13 percent from a year earlier and a record high for that date. Stocks of American cheese at 400 million pounds were 9 percent higher than on February 28, 1979. The Government held 7.2 million pounds of American cheese at the end of February, more

than double a year ago. Wisconsin had 213 million pounds of American cheese in cold storage, an increase of 13 percent from the previous year. Stocks of Swiss cheese at the end of February were up 1 percent from a year earlier, while all other cheese had an increase of 33 percent.

Butter stocks in the Nation's cold storage facilities on February 29th amounted to 203 million pounds, 5 percent below the previous year. Government butter stocks at nearly 171 million pounds were 8 percent under last year. Wisconsin had 29 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of February, an increase of 18 percent from a year ago.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Feb. 28 1978	Feb. 28 1979	Feb. 29 1980	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	215,947	214,840	203,128	- 5
Cheese, American	377,506	367,287	400,266	+ 9
Cheese, Swiss	8,923	13,618	13,757	+ 1
Cheese, all other	55,606	72,752	96,846	+ 33
Cheese, total	442,035	453,657	510,869	+ 13
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	21,274	24,819	29,198	+ 18
Cheese, American	187,175	187,788	213,113	+ 13
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	162,851	186,359	170,686	- 8
Cheese, American	36,995	3,252	7,179	+121

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products, United States

Commodity	January 31 1978	January 31 1979	January 31 1980	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	5,945	4,869	4,667	- 4
Dried skim milk	63,636	37,894	86,990	+ 130
Dried buttermilk	6,200	4,222	7,226	+ 71
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	59,742	65,963	75,283	+ 14

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

CATTLE PRICES HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

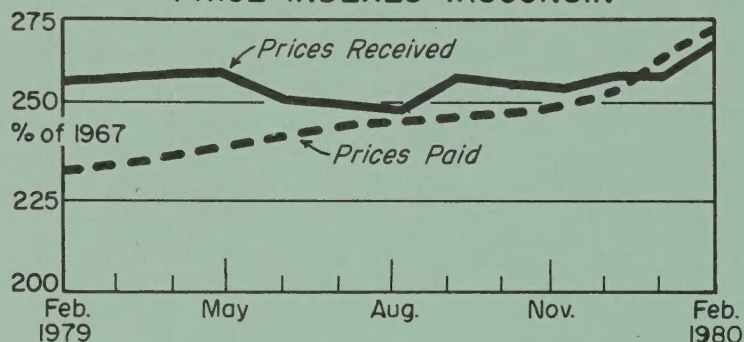
A strong market for cattle and calves in mid-February helped the index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers to increase 2 points from a month earlier. At 264 percent of the 1967 base, the prices received index was 8 points (3 percent) above February last year. The index of prices paid also increased 2 points from January to February, and it was 36 points (15 percent) higher than a year ago.

Prices for milk cows averaged a record high of \$1,120.00 per head as of mid-February, up \$35.00 from the previous month and \$215.00 more than last year. Calves brought an average of \$123.00 a hundredweight in February, a gain of \$9.00 from January and \$18.00 above February 1979.

Steers and heifers averaged \$68.20 a hundredweight on February 15, an increase of \$3.40 from a month earlier and \$2.20 higher than a year ago. Slaughter cows averaged \$53.10 a hundredweight in February, up \$4.80 from January and \$1.40 more than the previous year.

Hog prices showed little change from January to February. At \$36.80 a hundredweight, hogs were up 10 cents from

PRICE INDEXES-WISCONSIN



January but \$15.70 under February 1979.

Sheep averaged \$17.50 a hundredweight in February, down \$2.00 from a month earlier and 50 cents below last year. Lambs, at an average of \$60.50 a hundredweight for mid-February, were \$5.50 less than the previous month and \$7.20 lower than a year ago.

Egg prices dropped sharply from January to February. Eggs averaged 43 cents a dozen in February, a decline of 9.5 cents from January and 7.4 cents under February 1979.

Most crop prices showed slight increases from January to February. Wheat averaged \$3.60 a bushel as of mid-February, a gain of 6 cents from a month earlier and 40 cents higher than last year. Corn averaged \$2.23 a bushel on February 15, up 2 cents from January and 20 cents above a year ago.

Oats brought an average of \$1.36 a bushel in mid-February, 1 cent more than the previous month and 17 cents greater than February 1979. Soybeans averaged \$5.55 a bushel in February, down 2 cents from a month earlier and \$1.26 below last year.

Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$32.50 a ton as of mid-February, an increase of \$1.00 from the previous month but \$8.00 lower than a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Month of February 1978	Month of February 1979	January 15 1980	February 15 1980
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	625.00	905.00	1,085.00	1,120.00
Steers and heifers .	Cwt.	39.30	66.00	64.80	68.20
Cows	Cwt.	30.80	51.70	48.30	53.10
Calves	Cwt.	43.40	105.00	114.00	123.00
Hogs	Cwt.	46.20	52.50	36.70	36.80
Sheep	Cwt.	13.90	18.00	19.50	17.50
Lambs	Cwt.	58.20	67.70	66.00	60.50
Turkeys	Lb.	1/	1/	.390	1/
Eggs	Doz.	.480	.504	.525	.430
Corn	Bu.	1.98	2.03	2.21 2/	2.23
Wheat	Bu.	2.35	3.20	3.54	3.60
Oats	Bu.	1.11	1.19	1.35 2/	1.36
Soybeans	Bu.	5.21	6.81	5.57	5.55
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	49.50	40.50	31.50	32.50

1/Insufficient sales to establish price. 2/Average for the month.

ELECTRICITY COSTS HIGHER IN 1979

A survey of farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation last summer showed that the costs of electricity were up from the previous year. Monthly farm electric bills averaged \$72.20 in Wisconsin during the 1979 survey period, an increase of \$5.00 from 1978. Average monthly kilowatt hours used were unchanged at 1,680 hours. The cost per kilowatt hour aver-

aged \$4.30 in 1979, a gain of 30 cents from a year earlier. The data was based on an annual survey made in July and August, reporting data for the most recent bill — usually June and July. Wisconsin's kilowatt hour usage and average monthly electricity bill was higher than that for other midwestern states and the Nation. Monthly farm electric bills for the Nation averaged \$55.10 in 1979, up \$1.90 from 1978.

Farm Electricity Usage and Cost

States	Average monthly kilowatt hour used		Average monthly bill		Average cost per kilowatt hour	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
KWH Dollars Cents						
Wisconsin	1,680	1,680	67.20	72.20	4.00	4.30
Midwestern States 1/	1,256	1,340	53.30	61.02	4.28	4.58
United States	1,334	1,299	53.20	55.10	3.98	4.24

1/Midwestern states include Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa.

The cost of local telephone service to Wisconsin farmers averaged \$9.90 per month during the survey period last summer. This was 30 cents less than the previous year. With long distance calls and other charges included, the average monthly phone bill totaled \$19.70. Approximately 98 percent of Wisconsin farms had telephone service in 1979. Nationally, the average monthly telephone bill for local service was \$10.60 in 1979 compared with \$10.30 a year earlier.

Telephone Bills

States	Percent of farms with telephones		Average monthly local telephone bill		Average monthly total telephone bill 1/	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
Percent Dollars Dollars						
Wisconsin	97	98	10.20	9.90	21.30	19.70
Midwestern States 2/	97	97	9.88	10.26	23.58	25.54
United States	93	94	10.30	10.60	24.40	26.20

1/Difference between total bill and local bill is long distance and other charges.

2/Midwestern states include Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa.

CUSTOM RATES GUIDE FOR SPRING

Hiring equipment for planting and harvesting continues to become a more important part of Wisconsin's agriculture each year. Intense inflationary costs for new equipment, energy, and labor have caused many farmers to consider hiring a planting or harvesting operation rather than purchasing machinery to do the job. The number of farms and total land in farms have continued to decline, but the average size of a Wisconsin farm has increased. Farm operators who have recently enlarged their base acreage by taking over a neighbor's farm may choose to hire custom work as an alternative to investing large sums of capital for additional or larger machinery. As machinery costs continue to increase, custom work becomes a more viable option to buying farm equipment that receives restricted use during a crop season. With spring field work approaching, the following tables are presented to show custom rates for land tillage, planting, and fertilizing operations.

Custom work rates published in the tables include the cost of hiring the machine with fuel, operator, and other maintenance supplies, but the rates do not include the cost of materials used such as seed, fertilizer, and herbicides. No

attempt was made to distinguish between the rates charged by custom operators who do this work for their main source of income and farmers who occasionally do custom work as a sideline or on an exchange basis. Rates charged by custom operators trend to the higher side of the ranges shown in order to meet their total expenses and provide a return on their machinery investment.

Rates in the tables should be used as guides rather than absolute values in making management decisions regarding custom work. The reported rates can be influenced by the

availability of equipment, soil conditions, topography, type and size of machine, special services performed, and traditional practices in an area. Users of the data should refer to the footnotes following the tables before making a final decision about doing farm work or hiring someone to do it.

**Planting and Fertilizing Operations
Wisconsin, 1979 1/**

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour	
Grain drilling:				
Without fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9	1.80- 6.00	3.87	3.00-10.00	6.17
10 and over . . . . .	.75- 8.00	3.95	2.50-25.00	11.73
With fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9	5.00- 6.00	5.50	4.00-12.00	7.67
10 and over	2.00- 8.00	4.27	5.00-24.50	11.83
Corn planting:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	3.00- 8.00	4.75	5.00-15.00	9.67
4 row	1.50- 7.50	4.93	5.00-35.00	14.11
6 row	3.50- 8.00	5.20	—	—
8 row	—	—	—	—
With fertilizer				
2 row	3.50- 6.00	4.90	6.50-10.00	8.83
4 row	1.85- 7.50	4.63	3.00-20.00	10.38
With fertilizer and insecticide:				
4 row	2.00-13.00	5.71	8.00-40.00	20.08
6 row	4.00- 5.00	4.33	—	—
8 row	5.00	5.00	—	—
With fertilizer and herbicide				
4 row	3.00- 8.00	5.50	14.00	14.00
With fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide:				
4 row	3.00- 8.00	5.74	5.00-24.00	15.33
8 row	7.00	7.00	—	—
Fertilizer application:				
Dry fertilizer . . . . .	.50- 4.00	1.76	10.00-20.00	16.10
Dry fertilizer 2/.	1.00- 7.00	3.44	—	—
Liquid fertilizer	1.50- 9.00	3.05	—	—
Anhydrous ammonia	1.00-10.00	3.60	20.00-24.00	22.00

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but exclude costs of materials such as seed, fertilizer, herbicides, etc. 2/Per ton.

Land Tillage Operations, Wisconsin, 1979 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
	Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour	
Plowing:				
Number of bottoms				
2	4.00-15.00	6.63	4.50- 9.00	6.50
3	5.00-10.00	7.05	3.50-16.00	9.10
4	5.00-10.00	7.42	8.00-25.00	16.29
5	6.00-15.00	8.81	12.50-38.00	23.06
6 and over	5.00-14.00	9.13	40.00-50.00	43.33
Disking:				
Width in feet				
8-10	1.75-10.00	4.54	4.50-16.00	9.19
11-14	1.50-10.00	4.83	2.50-32.00	15.83
15 and over	3.50-15.00	5.51	12.00-45.00	28.58
Quack digging:				
Width in feet				
8-9	3.50	3.50	7.50-15.00	10.17
10-13	1.50- 5.00	3.70	3.00-18.00	10.41
14 and over	2.50- 6.00	4.34	11.50-20.00	16.50
Chisel plowing:				
Width in feet				
6-8	4.00- 8.50	6.19	9.00-15.00	12.75
9-10	4.00-15.00	6.78	7.00-30.00	13.75
11 and over	5.00- 8.00	7.00	8.00-25.00	17.50
Harrowing:				
Spiketooth				
Width in feet				
10-16	2.50- 3.50	3.00	6.00-25.00	9.50
18 and over	1.00- 5.30	2.80	5.00-20.00	12.00
Springtooth				
Width in feet				
7-10	4.00-10.00	4.67	7.00- 8.00	7.50
11-15	2.50- 7.00	4.27	6.00-11.00	9.26
16 and over	3.25-10.00	5.19	10.00-22.50	15.70
Chopping corn stalks:				
Width in feet				
6 and under	1.00- 8.00	4.67	4.00-20.00	10.67
7 and over	3.00- 8.00	4.93	20.00	20.00
Cultivating:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	1.50- 5.00	2.82	2.50-10.00	6.25
4 row	1.00- 6.00	3.42	5.00-30.00	15.45
6 row	—	—	—	—
8 row	—	—	—	—
With fertilizer				
2 row	2.50- 3.50	3.00	10.00	10.00
4 row	3.00- 5.00	4.00	12.00	12.00

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but exclude costs of materials such as fertilizer, herbicides, etc.

MEAT AND POULTRY STOCKS HIGHER THAN YEAR EARLIER

Cold storage stocks of red meat in the Nation at the end of February totaled 719 million pounds, 2 percent above a year ago. Poultry stocks, at nearly 359 million pounds, were up 39 percent from February 29, 1979.

A 24 percent increase in pork stocks offset a decline of 10 percent for beef stocks. There were 271.9 million pounds of pork in cold storage on February 29, while beef supplies amounted to 361.3 million pounds. Veal stocks at the end of February were up 15 percent from the previous year, but stocks of lamb and mutton were down 10 percent.

Stocks of chicken in cold storage at the end of February totaled 134.2 million pounds, 33 percent more than a year earlier. Turkey stocks, at 220.6 million pounds, were 43 percent higher than on February 29, 1979.

**Cold Storage Stocks of Red Meat and Poultry
United States, February 29, 1980, and Comparisons**

Commodity	Feb. 28 1978	Feb. 28 1979	Jan. 31 1980	Feb. 29 1980	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
FROZEN MEAT					
Beef	318,377	402,876	368,724	361,277	-10
Pork	172,356	219,281	284,197	271,869	+24
Veal	12,513	8,954	10,914	10,335	+15
Lamb and mutton	8,628	10,827	10,411	9,767	-10
CANNED MEATS					
IN COOLER					
Hams	47,898	50,416	43,056	48,043	-5
Other meats	11,844	15,862	18,006	17,608	+11
Total red meat 1/.	571,616	708,216	735,308	718,899	+2
FROZEN POULTRY					
Chicken, all	124,236	100,634	134,686	134,248	+33
Turkeys, all	136,577	154,713	247,471	220,621	+43
Total poultry 2/.	262,724	258,198	386,555	358,772	+39

1/Excludes cooler beef and cooler pork. 2/Includes frozen ducks.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DOWN IN 1979

The number of livestock slaughtered in Wisconsin and the Nation during 1979 was below the previous year except for the National hog kill. Cattle slaughter in Wisconsin totaled about 1 million head, a decline of 18 percent from 1978 and the smallest number since 1963. The Nation's cattle slaughter of 33.7 million head in 1979 was 15 percent under a year earlier, with federal inspection accounting for 93.5 percent the total slaughter. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in 1979 was heavier for both Wisconsin and the Nation.

Federally inspected cow slaughter in Wisconsin during 1979 was 26 percent below the previous year, while the Nation's cow slaughter declined 30 percent. Slaughtering of heifers was also considerably less than in 1978 for both Wisconsin and the Nation.

The 346,900 calves slaughtered in Wisconsin during 1979

were 16 percent fewer than a year earlier and the lowest since 1974. Average liveweight of calves was a record high of 209 pounds. Calf slaughter Nationally in 1979 was down 32 percent from the previous year, with 88.5 percent of the number slaughtered covered by federal inspection.

Wisconsin's hog kill of about 2.2 million head for 1979 was 18 percent lower than in 1978 and the lowest on record dating back to 1944. Federally inspected slaughter of barrows and gilts in Wisconsin during 1979 was down 19 percent from a year earlier, while sow slaughter declined 46 percent. The number of hogs butchered in the Nation during 1979 was 15 percent higher than the previous year. About 96 percent of the National hog slaughter was federally inspected.

Sheep and lamb slaughter in Wisconsin for 1979 was up 6 percent from 1978, but the National slaughter declined 7 percent. Over 96 percent of the Nation's sheep and lamb kill was federally inspected.

Commercial Slaughter, 1978 and 1979

Species and area	Number slaughtered 1/			Total liveweight			Average liveweight		
	1978	1979	Change from last year	1978	1979	Change from last year 2/	1978	1979	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds		Percent	Pounds		Percent
WISCONSIN									
Cattle, all	1,253.4	1,023.8	-18	1,393.6	1,197.3	-14	1,112	1,169	+ 5
Cows 3/	663.3	491.2	-26	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steers 3/	316.2	299.8	- 5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heifers 3/	99.2	72.2	-27	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calves	411.9	346.9	-16	79.0	72.4	- 8	192	209	+ 9
Hogs, all	2,647.2	2,177.8	-18	636.4	519.0	-18	240	238	- 1
Barrows and gilts 3/ . .	2,505.2	2,038.9	-19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sows 3/	62.9	33.9	-46	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs	5.2	5.5	+ 6	.5	.6	+ 4	102	101	- 1
UNITED STATES									
Cattle, all	39,552.1	33,677.6	-15	40,986.3	35,709.3	-13	1,036	1,060	+ 2
Cows 3/	7,913.0	5,546.0	-30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Steers 3/	17,308.0	16,258.0	- 6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heifers 3/	10,981.0	9,112.0	-17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calves	4,170.2	2,823.9	-32	1,012.1	688.8	-32	243	244	n. c.
Hogs, all	77,315.2	89,099.1	+15	18,554.9	21,554.0	+16	240	242	+ 1
Barrows and gilts 3/ . .	69,539.0	79,744.0	+15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sows 3/	3,870.0	4,793.0	+24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs	5,368.9	5,017.1	- 7	601.3	570.6	- 5	112	114	+ 2

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Percent change based on unrounded values. 3/Federally inspected only.

HOG INVENTORY LARGE

The March 1 inventory of hogs and pigs in the 14 states conducting quarterly surveys was the highest for that date since records began in 1970. There were 54.7 million hogs and pigs in the 14 states on March 1, an increase of 7 percent from a year earlier. Although breeding stock was down 3 percent from the previous year, the number of market hogs increased 9 percent. The 14 quarterly states account for about 85 percent of the Nation's hog and pig inventory.

Hog producers in Wisconsin had 1,750,000 hogs and pigs on farms March 1, up 11 percent from a year ago and the most for that date since 1963. The State's breeding stock was 5 percent higher than on March 1, 1979, while the number of market hogs increased 13 percent.

A total of 105,000 sows farrowed in Wisconsin during December 1979 through February 1980, an increase of 11 percent from that quarter a year earlier. Litter rates averaged 7.35 pigs per litter compared with 7.20 pigs in the December 1978-February 1979 quarter. Farrowings in the 14 quarterly states during the past quarter were up 3 percent from a year earlier, but the pig crop increased 7 percent due to higher

litter rates.

Wisconsin hog producers intend to increase farrowings during the months of March through August, but producers in the 14 states indicated a small decline in farrowings.

Sows Farrowed and Sows to Farrow
March through August, 1979 and 1980, 14 States

State	March through May			June through August		
	1979	1980 1/	Change from last year	1979	1980 1/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	120	125	+ 4	120	115	- 4
Illinois	465	450	- 3	410	410	n.c.
Indiana	245	250	+ 2	270	245	- 9
Iowa	990	990	n. c.	790	750	- 5
Kansas	124	114	- 8	112	101	-10
Kentucky	88	88	n. c.	92	85	- 8
Minnesota	290	310	+ 7	290	300	+ 3
Missouri	315	310	- 2	290	280	- 3
Nebraska	275	255	- 7	220	215	- 2
North Carolina . .	144	150	+ 4	155	150	- 3
Ohio	120	125	+ 4	135	130	- 4
South Dakota . . .	150	145	- 3	105	110	+ 5
Texas	52	46	-12	55	54	- 2
Wisconsin	108	115	+ 6	115	125	+ 9
Total 14 States . .	3,486	3,473	n. c.	3,159	3,070	- 3

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions report.

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market, March 1, 1979 and 1980, 14 States

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1979	1980	Change from last year	1979	1980	Change from last year	1979	1980	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	312	327	+ 5	1,498	1,783	+ 19	1,810	2,110	+ 17
Illinois	1,007	957	- 5	5,493	5,643	+ 3	6,500	6,600	+ 2
Indiana	699	642	- 8	3,901	3,758	- 4	4,600	4,400	- 4
Iowa	2,384	2,268	- 5	12,516	13,932	+ 11	14,900	16,200	+ 9
Kansas	311	272	- 13	1,684	1,658	- 2	1,995	1,930	- 3
Kentucky . . .	214	216	+ 1	976	1,114	+ 14	1,190	1,330	+ 12
Minnesota . . .	721	742	+ 3	3,399	4,208	+ 24	4,120	4,950	+ 20
Missouri	751	731	- 3	3,199	3,569	+ 12	3,950	4,300	+ 9
Nebraska	585	558	- 5	3,115	3,292	+ 6	3,700	3,850	+ 4
North Carolina .	355	370	+ 4	1,865	2,100	+ 13	2,220	2,470	+ 11
Ohio	297	290	- 2	1,633	1,760	+ 8	1,930	2,050	+ 6
South Dakota . .	262	272	+ 4	1,338	1,618	+ 21	1,600	1,890	+ 18
Texas	140	139	- 1	710	761	+ 7	850	900	+ 6
Wisconsin	295	310	+ 5	1,275	1,440	+ 13	1,570	1,750	+ 11
Total 14 States	8,333	8,094	- 3	42,602	46,636	+ 9	50,935	54,730	+ 7

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop, December 1/ through February, 1979 and 1980, 14 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 2/		
	1979	1980	Change from last year	1979	1980	1979	1980	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	110	115	+ 5	6.70	7.10	737	816	+ 11
Illinois	340	320	- 6	6.60	7.00	2,244	2,240	n. c.
Indiana	240	225	- 6	6.85	7.05	1,644	1,586	- 4
Iowa	680	700	+ 3	6.90	7.10	4,692	4,970	+ 6
Kansas	105	100	- 5	6.80	7.20	714	720	+ 1
Kentucky	70	73	+ 4	6.10	6.70	427	489	+ 15
Minnesota	250	295	+ 18	7.15	7.50	1,788	2,212	+ 24
Missouri	225	220	- 2	6.80	7.30	1,530	1,606	+ 5
Nebraska	195	200	+ 3	7.00	7.30	1,365	1,460	+ 7
North Carolina . .	130	150	+ 15	7.00	7.10	910	1,065	+ 17
Ohio	95	100	+ 5	7.00	7.20	665	720	+ 8
South Dakota . . .	77	86	+ 12	7.20	7.50	554	645	+ 16
Texas	48	48	n. c.	6.50	6.80	312	326	+ 4
Wisconsin	95	105	+ 11	7.20	7.35	684	772	+ 13
Total 14 States	2,660	2,737	+ 3	6.87	7.17	18,266	19,627	+ 7

1/December preceding year. 2/Number of pigs born December through February that were on hand March 1 or had been sold.

STATE'S LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
ABOVE FEBRUARY LAST YEAR

The number of cattle, calves, and hogs slaughtered in Wisconsin during February was higher than a year ago. There were 87,000 cattle slaughtered in the State during February, an increase of 16 percent from that month in 1979. Cow slaughter

for February was up 16 percent while the kill of steers and heifers increased 27 percent.

The 34,000 calves slaughtered in February were 11 percent more than a year earlier. A total of 185,000 hogs were butchered in Wisconsin during February, up 34 percent from the previous year.

Commercial Slaughter, February 1979 and 1980, Wisconsin and United States 1/

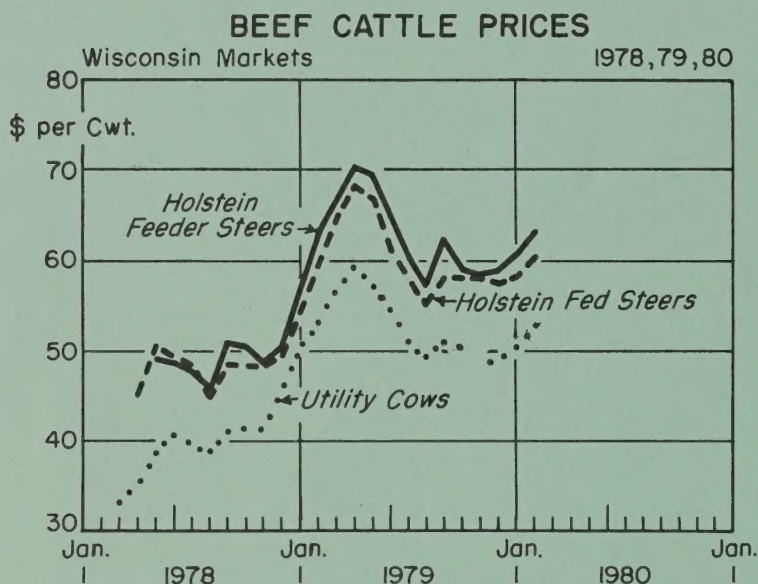
Species and area	Number slaughtered						Total liveweight		
	February			January - February			February		
	1979	1980	Change from last year 2/	1979	1980	Change from last year 2/	1979	1980	Change from last year 2/
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds		Percent
WISCONSIN									
Cattle, all	74	87	+ 16	167	184	+ 11	87.2	104.6	+ 20
Cows 3/	39.4	45.8	+ 16	85.1	96.8	+ 14	-	-	-
Steers and heifers 3/ . .	22.6	28.7	+ 27	53.7	62.0	+ 15	-	-	-
Calves	30	34	+ 11	68	72	+ 6	6.1	7.4	+ 22
Hogs, all	138	185	+ 34	290	391	+ 35	32.5	43.3	+ 33
Sows 3/	2.0	2.1	+ 5	4.7	5.2	+ 11	-	-	-
Sheep and lambs . . . . .	.2	.2	n. c.	.4	.5	+ 25	18 4/	24 4/	+ 33
UNITED STATES									
Cattle, all	2,737	2,645	- 3	6,044	5,567	- 8	2,879	2,880	n. c.
Cows 3/	440	432	- 2	989	952	- 4	-	-	-
Steers 3/	1,352	1,333	- 1	2,957	2,777	- 6	-	-	-
Heifers 3/	724	672	- 7	1,610	1,393	- 13	-	-	-
Calves	240	205	- 15	536	440	- 18	58	47	- 19
Hogs, all	5,947	7,603	+ 28	12,642	16,019	+ 27	1,409	1,815	+ 29
Sows 3/	279	346	+ 24	596	788	+ 32	-	-	-
Sheep and lambs	364	431	+ 18	766	893	+ 17	43	50	+ 17

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Percent change based on unrounded values. 3/Federally inspected only. 4/Expressed in thousands.

BEEF MARKET UP

Beef cattle prices at Wisconsin auction markets during February were higher than the previous month. Good and choice Holstein fed steers weighing 1,100 to 1,500 pounds averaged \$60.46 a hundredweight for February, an increase of \$2.34 from January and 71 cents above last year.

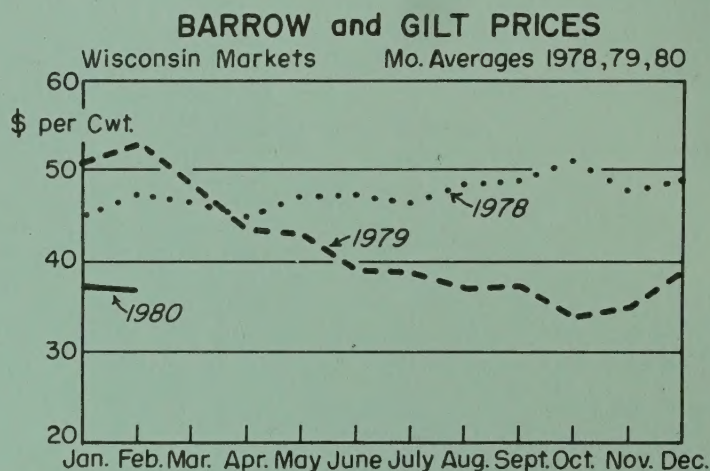
Utility cows averaged \$52.99 a hundredweight in February, up \$2.47 from January but 43 cents under February 1979.



Large frame number two Holstein feeder steers weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds averaged \$63.90 a hundredweight during February. This was \$3.19 more than the previous month and \$1.00 higher than a year ago.

HOG MARKET DECLINES SLIGHTLY

Prices paid for barrows and gilts at Wisconsin packing plants and country buying stations averaged \$37.08 a hundredweight in February for hogs weighing 200 to 230 pounds. This was 15 cents lower than in January and \$16.00 under February last year.



WISCONSIN FARM REPORTER (USPS 398-970)

March 1980

Vol. XII, No. 5

Published Monthly

by WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
801 WEST BADGER ROAD
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53713

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID
AT MADISON, WISCONSIN